



State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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For immediate release

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Wyoming Air National Guard MAFFS units activated

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Air National Guard deployed approximately 23 personnel and a C-130 equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System to Klamath Falls, Ore., to fight regional wild fires. By Aug. 3 the unit will have deployed one more C-130 and additional personnel.

The C-130's crews will operate from Klamath Falls, Ore., while deployed. The U.S. Forest Service will direct the operation of the crews.

Col. Harold Reed, 153rd Airlift Wing commander, said the crews have few details about the fire situation. "We'll know more when we arrive, but we typically don't get called to fight fires until a situation escalates."

Currently NIFC lists the national preparedness level as 4. Two hundred twelve new large fires were reported as of today. Additionally, all of the heavy lift tankers contracted by NIFC are fully committed.

NIFC activates the National Guard and Reserve MAFFS units when other fire fighting resources are exhausted.

The Wyoming Air National Guard is one of four National Guard and Reserve units in the country trained to operate the MAFFS units. Each MAFFS unit can drop 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in 8 – 10 seconds.

The Wyoming Air National Guard has performed its MAFFS mission for more than 30 years. Last year the unit was activated once, in July, to fight fires in Idaho.